

OLD COUNTY JAIL
(Hamlin Memorial Library)
Paris, Maine

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

District of Maine

Historic American Buildings Survey
Josiah T. Tubby, District Officer
537 Congress Street, Portland, Maine

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("HAMLIN MEMORIAL LIBRARY")
(Old Oxford County Jail)
Paris Hill, Oxford County, Maine

Present Owners

Town of Paris Hill

Date of Erection

1822-1828

Present Condition

The building was originally erected as the county jail. After it ceased to be used as such it was altered for use as a library. The original gable roof was removed. An overhanging hip roof with a metal dome replaced the original gable roof. Cell partitions and the second floor construction were torn out and book shelves installed in the interior to make it suitable for a library.

Description

Now a one story structure built of large granite blocks quarried on Horse Hill in Oxford. Small single sash windows heavily guarded by broad iron bars. The stairway to the original second floor of the building was on the outside, - the only means of entering it. The building was formerly surrounded by a stout palisade upon the existing granite coping wall.

Other Existing Records

"A City on a Hill" (Paris Hill) by Charles E. Waterman. Publisher-Merrill & Webber Co., Auburn, Maine 1931(page 75).

Additional Data

In 1805, Oxford County was formed of sections of York and Cumberland Counties and Paris Hill was designated as shire town of the new county. It was several years before all the necessary buildings of a shire town were constructed and the last of these to be constructed was the jail. Later, when the county seat was moved to South Paris, the buildings were remodelled into dwellings. The jail, because of its small size and its heavy construction, was not suitable for alteration as a dwelling. Dr. Augustus C. Hamlin conceived the idea of presenting the building to the women of Paris Hill for a village library.

During its use as a jail, there were several instances of "jail breaking". One prisoner worked loose a granite block and pushed the block out, leaving an opening large enough for his escape. This block was later reinforced with iron bars.

The granite walls are approximately sixteen inches thick. The original second floor was apparently formed of large granite slabs six to eight inches thick. Security was based on the weight and size of the construction.

Eleanor E. Jannell

Approved:

Josiah T. Mobley

June 22, 1937

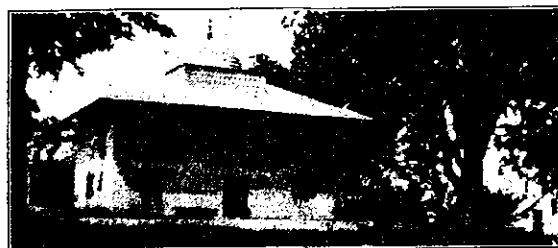
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HAMLIN MEMORIAL LIBRARY



Paris, Maine

Hamlin Memorial Library

PARIS, MAINE

THE stone building now used as a library, was built for a jail in 1822, and so used until 1895. In 1900, through the efforts of several ladies of the village, a deed of the building was obtained from Dr. Augustus Choate Hamlin, son of Elijah Hamlin. He remodeled the interior, removing the huge slabs of stone forming the second floor, and put on the steel roof. The library was opened on November 19, 1900.

NORTH WALL

1 *Bust of Horatio King.*

Son of Samuel and Sally Hall King, born in Paris, June 21, 1811. In partnership with Hannibal Hamlin published "The Jeffersonian." The partnership was dissolved, but King continued the publication till 1838, when he entered the Post Office Department at Washington, in the lowest class clerkship. President Buchanan recognized his marked ability and energy, appointing him Postmaster General in 1861. This incident is without parallel in the political annals of the United States. Later he was one of the Board of Commissioners to carry out the provisions of the Emancipation Proclamation, and after following the profession of law retired in 1875. He died in Washington in 1897.

Oil Paintings. Right to left.)

2 This is said to be one of George Innes's early paintings.

3 *Samuel Carter.*

Born in Paris, June 22, 1829. Graduated from Union College, 1851. Admitted to Oxford Bar, 1854, and married Julia Hamlin, of Bangor, in 1857. Member of law firm "Kimball and Carter," and librarian of the Bar Association of Oxford County. He devoted much time to measures that would benefit the community, and to scientific pursuits, especially geology and mineralogy. He had a most valuable collection of Mt. Mica gems. He was a member of the Portland Societies of Natural History and Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. He died on April 24, 1893.

4 *Bay of Naples.*

Painted by Dr. Augustus C. Hamlin.

WEST WALL

5 *Saddle of Lydia Chapin Thayer.*

Used on a journey from Milford, Massachusetts, to Paris, in 1791. She came as the bride of Asa Thayer, also of Milford, and they settled in the Partridge district, just north of the Hill.

6 *Bust of Hannibal Hamlin.*

Most illustrious son of Paris. Born here in 1809. A rugged nobility and disdain of sham won all hearts and made him a leader. At twenty-five a lawyer and a representative in the State Legislature, three times speaker. At thirty-five, member of the National House of Representatives, at thirty-eight, United States Senator, at forty-seven, Governor of Maine at fifty-two, Vice-President of the Republic, in the hardest years of the Civil War. In 1865, Collector of Customs at Boston. From '69 to '81 in the United States Senate. Then Minister to Spain, and later enjoying a busy rest until Independence Day, 1891, when he stepped into the Beyond. This is only a skeleton of his remarkable career.

7 *Print of Dr. Augustus Choate Hamlin.*

A nephew of Hannibal Hamlin, born in Columbus, Maine, August 28, 1829. Graduated from Bowdoin College, 1851, from Harvard Medical School, 1855, and studied medicine in Paris, France. He married Helen Agnes, daughter of Hon. Jonas Cutting, Dec. 31, 1857. He joined the 2nd Maine Volunteers Infantry, April, 1861. Made Lieut.-Colonel in 1863, and returned to Bangor in 1865 to practise medicine. Alexander II, Emperor of Russia, made him Chevalier of the Order of St. Anne. Became Mayor of Bangor, 1878. Also a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and was secretary in 1874. Member of the Philadelphia Academy of Sciences and Royal Society of Antiquarians of Northern Europe. He was the author of several articles on mineralogy and medicine.

8 *The Dying Gaul.*

Oil Paintings. (Right to left.)

9 *Helen Hamlin.*

Daughter of Dr. Augustus C. Hamlin. Said to be the inspiration of Longfellow's poem, "Beautiful Helen of Maine."

10 *Mrs. Anna Livermore Hamlin.*

Mother of Hannibal Hamlin.

11 *Dr. Eleazer Hamlin. 21 Jan 4*

~~Grandfather~~ of Hannibal Hamlin. *Elder Brother*

12 *Dr. Cyrus Hamlin.*

Father of Hannibal Hamlin.

SOUTH WALL

13 *Vase.*

14 *Venus de Milo.*

Pictures. (Right to left.)

15 *Oil Painting of Dr. Cyrus Hamlin.*

Son of Dr. Hannibal Hamlin, born in Waterford, Maine, January 5, 1811. While an apprentice of Mr. Charles Farley, a silversmith of Portland, he was converted, and went to Bowdoin College, and Bangor Seminary, to study for the ministry. Ac-

cepted by the American Board of Foreign Missions in 1837, as a missionary to Turkey. Founder and President of Bebek Seminary of Constantinople, 1840 to 1859. Founder and President of Robert College, Constantinople, 1863 to 1877. President of Bangor Seminary, 1877 to 1880, and of Middlebury College, 1880 to 1885. Died in Portland August 8, 1900.

- 16 *Print of Horatio King.*
- 17 *Map of Rangeley Lakes District of Oxford County.*
Drawn on birch bark by Metallak, an old Indian guide. It is thought that he was born somewhere in the Androscoggin Valley, a son of a chief of the Cooashhaukes, of which tribe he was the last. For years he was a guide in the Rangeley district, and served Elijah Hamlin in that capacity, to whom he gave the map. It is said it cannot be improved on for accuracy.
- 18 *Judge Jonas Cutting.*
Father of Augustus C. Hamlin's wife, Helen Cutting, of Bangor.

EAST WALL

- 19 *Indian Arrow Heads.*
- 20 *Oil Painting of Paris Hill.*
In the early days. Painter unknown.
- 21 *Reed for Hand Loom for Carpets.*
- 22 *Print of Mr. Thomas Crocker.*
One of the old residents of Paris, next generation from the first.
- 23 *Small Print of Hannibal Hamlin.*
- 24 (above) *Large Print of John D. Long.*
Born in Buckfield. Secretary of the Navy in Roosevelt's administration. Presented to Admiral Lyon, Commander of the "Mayflower" in Roosevelt's administration.
- 25 *George F. Emery.* Brother of Hannibal Hamlin's two wives, Sarah and Ellen Vesta Emery.
- 26 *Reed for Hand Loom for Carpets.*
- 27 *Print of Loren Merrill and Dr. Augustus C. Hamlin.*
Holding the largest tourmaline ever found in the world, taken from Mt. Mica.
- 28 *Mrs. Simeon Cummings.*
- 29 *Mr. Simeon Cummings.*

AROUND THE DOOR

Right Side.

- 30 Letter in Hannibal Hamlin's own handwriting, in reply to a letter of Mr. Hubbard.
- 31 *Print of the Old Jail.*
- 32 *Pencil Drawing of the Library,* by Mr. Shaylor.
- 33 (above the door) *Sampler.* Made by a sister of Hannibal Hamlin, in 1822.
- 34 *Grandfather Clock.* Built on Paris Hill, by Capt. John Bemis, between 1840 and 1855. Still in good condition and will run if kept level.